

**IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
LOCAL RULES ADOPTED)	
)	Case No. 98S00-0103-MS-
PURSUANT TO)	
)	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 15)	

ORDER

On February 4, 2000, this Court adopted new appellate rules effective January 1, 2001. These rules were the result of extensive study and public commentary over a two-year period. Several counties have now submitted requests to amend their respective local rules adopted pursuant to Administrative Rule 15 regarding compensation for court reporter services. All of the requests seek to increase the cost of transcript preparation, but the amounts and forms of increases requested vary widely. In order to reach an informed decision and an appropriate balance between the several interests at stake in this process, request further advice on this issue from the courts seeking increases, the Appellate Section of the Indiana Bar Association, the leaders of the Appellate Rules Project, the Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Indiana Association of Counties, and any other interested individuals or groups. Our objective in this process is to promote a fair cost structure that does not unfairly burden litigants and the counties who pay for indigents' transcripts and also compensates fairly the individuals responsible for the transcript preparation.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that any court seeking approval for increase in the fees charged for transcript preparation is to submit documentation advising this Court of the specific reasons for the requested increase. Reference to specific changes in tasks assigned to the court reporter under the new rules, specific costs of materials used in the process, and changes in income from copy or other fees, and the county-paid salary of the court reporter are among the issues that we find relevant and useful to our analysis.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that chair of the Appellate Section of the Indiana Bar Association, the chair of the Appellate Rules Project, the chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, and the Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Counties, specifically are requested to canvas each respective organization and advise this court, not later than July 1, 2001, how each organization views any changes in record preparation caused by the new appellate rules. Specifically we request advice as to any new or different tasks assigned to the court reporters, the cost of materials used in the process, any shifting of tasks or costs between attorneys and the court reporter, any shifting of income or tasks between the court reporter and the clerk, and any other effects of the new appellate rules on the court reporter's job or costs of transcript preparation. IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERD, that all requests for changes to the local rules governing transcript preparation will remain under advisement, and the existing local rules this Court previously approved pursuant to Administrative Rule 15 will remain in full force and effect until the requesting courts submit the necessary documentation and until this Court has an opportunity to review the input of the above mentioned organizations.

The Clerk of this Court is directed to send a copy of this Order to the Clerk of each Circuit

Court in the State of Indiana; to the Administrator, Supreme Court of Indiana; to the Administrator, Indiana Court of Appeals, to the Administrator, Indiana Tax Court; to the Public Defender of Indiana; to the Indiana Judicial Center, and to the Executive Director, Division of State Court administration, to the Chair, Indiana Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, to the Chair of the Indiana State Bar Association appellate section, to the Chairs of the Appellate Project and to the Executive Director of the Association of Counties.

The clerks of the Circuit Courts are directed to 1) bring this Order to the attention of all judges within their respective counties; 2) place a copy of this Order in the Record of Judgments and Orders for such courts and; 3) post this Order in the customary place for public examination in their respective counties.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 29th day of March, 2001

Randall T. Shepard(signature)
Randall T. Shepard
Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.